

New Bedford Jan. 25. 1848.

My dear Miss Weston -

A succession of occupations & recent sickness have prevented my thanking you for your letter of last month - and for the copy of the Liberty Bell that you kindly sent me from the Fair - I was glad for your sake to hear that your constant toil of weeks in preparation was not disappointed of its promised reward. and your sale was as successful in proportion as you could have anticipated.

Your sketch of your summer visiting and your pursuit of French under such auspicious circumstances was both bright & happy. I could not help smiling at your confession that you "had not found the quiet & leisure to which you were looking forward when I saw you last." I always had my doubts whether any leisure would ever prove aught to you but a new sphere of activity, and your own experience seems to be rapidly confirming my fancies in the matter.

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Mrs Greene has decided that I am to be  
the emaneensis in the Autograph Arrangement  
and we have waited a little longer to hear  
from Mrs Allen of Providence to whom we  
sent the Catalogue - I fear you will think we  
are losing our estimate of these rare treasures  
when you learn the smallness of our offer in  
proportion to your prices - but in almost every  
instance there are duplicates in our collections  
and we only procure them as exchanges for others.  
Mrs Allen - Mrs Greene & myself are willing to  
give eleven dollars - for the following.

Three Autograph Letters of Southey at. 3.00. 3.00. & 2.00.  
One do do of Charles Wolfe 3.00  
Note of Mrs Hemans 5.00 - Note of Wordsworth 2.00  
Letter of Blumenbach 75.<sup>c</sup> Letter of Rafu. 1.00.  
The Bottle by Cruikshank 1.00. Satan Montgomery 25.<sup>c</sup>  
Mary Howitt. 25. and Ottilie Von Goethe -  
Of course we retain them all here, subject to your  
decision -

We have had a rare treat within a week of two  
Lectures from Prof Nichol on the Moon & Sun - useful  
as if we had actually ascended to the brink of Lycus  
and looked over into his fearful depths beneath us.



After one becomes accustomed to the singular  
accent & manner of the gentleman, he is an interesting  
lecturer - Our own hobby for the summer has  
been the collection and arrangement of sea mosses.  
We have found a world of beauty on our shores,  
and some elegant European Books with illustra-  
tions have rekindled our zeal for another summer  
when we intend to examine the coast of the old  
Bay State very thoroughly - there must be many  
varieties within its rock-girt limits - & we already  
have specimens from several shores. This winter  
has been most suspicious to us, and within this  
month, we have passed hours by the sea-side  
without a sensation of cold. I believe you have  
in former years, received collections of these Mosses  
arranged in shells or baskets - do you remember what  
part of England they came from - and have you any  
idea of the process used in preparing them?

Our new minister and his wife are fairly  
settled among us - of course all is, as yet, "Coulon  
de Rose". - Mr. Weiss. is very accessible & social  
in private - and his sermons have all been marked  
with originality of thought, without running into  
mere ultraisms of any kind - he is a fine German



Scholar - which has an especial claim on my regard. His wife is an invalid, but very attractive and she seems to possess the rare attributes of prudence without reserve.

Our neighbours at Mrs Samuel Postmans are emerging slowly from their deepest sorrow - and the visit of some young relatives from a distance has given a new life to the children in their various literary pursuits. You are aware that William J. Potch is now a member of the legislative Council of our Commonwealth and other young friends of his make the winter campaign as agreeable as it will be enlightened by their wisdom. My young cousin Mary Potch's engagement to a fine frank-hearted & very handsome Lieutenant in the Army is the recent event of greatest interest in our family circle - and the wedding-day cannot be far distant. They are now in the Southern cities prolonging their Christmas holidays far into the New Year - We have seen no new books of late except Agassiz's system of Zoology which is a rich treat. - I thank you very dear Miss Weston for your invitation to the hills of the season - if we should ever wander in your direction we should be most happy to claim your services as guides to the beauties of the country but as you mention "going abroad" as an alternative - I cannot help wishing you over that water & far away for your own happiness.

Ms. A. 9.2.24.2